(d) if so, what steps have been taken to solve the various inherent difficulties before adoption of Tata by ASI?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Indian Hotels Company Limited have signed an MoU with the national Culture Fund and the Archaeological Survey of India to provide financial assistance towards conservation, environmental development and improvement of tourist related amenities at the Taj Mahal, Agra.

(b) Government are not aware of specific arrangements of other countries in this regard.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The National Culture Fund set-up by Government of India envisages that individual companies and corporate entities can contribute towards assisting the Archaeological Survey of India in structural conservation and in providing amenities around the monuments.

All conservation measures identified under the MoU will be carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India alone.

The activity involved in adoption of monument/site does not compromise the historic integrity of the site/monuments in any manner.

Non-Scientific methods of Conservation of ASI

193. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our conservation methods are antiquated and non- scientific;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Archaeological Survey of India cannot adhere to the golden rules of conservation which states to originality of structure;

(c) if so, the reasons for failure on both the counts; and

(d) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) The Archaeological Survey of India has adhered to time-tested methods of conservation. While conserving, its primary concern is to ensure the originality of the form and fabric of the structure, consistent with the stability and safety of the monument concerned.